

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 50 has been cancelled without prejudice.

The objection of claim 50 is being of substantial duplicate of claim 49 is thus deemed to be overcome.

Claims 36-38 and 41-53 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in item 4 of the Action.

Claims 36, 45, 46, 47 and 53 have been amended to delete the reference "which are characteristic of said MMP protein". This ground of rejection is thus deemed to be overcome.

Regarding the position that claim 52 is vague and indefinite in the recitation of the laboratory designations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On page 67, lines 15-24 of the English text, the specified prior art documents each disclose the specifically named MMP species, i.e., MMP-1 (pro MMP-1), MMP-2, (pro MMP-2), MMP-3 (pro MMP-3), MMP-7 (pro MMP-7), MMP-8 (pro MMP-8) and MMP-9 (pro MMP-9). These prior art documents show that the designations are definite and well accepted.

Further, the entire amino acid sequences of MMP-1, MMP-2, MMP-3, MMP-7, MMP-8 and MMP-9 are disclosed in Figs. 1A-1 to 1E.

All of the MMP species are thus readily identified on the basis of these disclosures.

In addition, detailed descriptions for each MMP species are present on page 2, line 11 to page 3, line 33 of the English text wherein reference is made to the specified prior art documents.

The Applicant accordingly believes that the designations, MMP-1, MMP-2, MMP-3, MMP-7, MMP-8 and MMP-9, are clear and definite in this field. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form.

The objection to claim 37 as being in improper dependent form is thus deemed to be overcome.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each ground of objection and rejection set forth in the Official Action have been overcome. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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